

We Claim

1. Particles of a solid comprising an oil field production chemical, said solid carrying a coating, which comprises a dispersing agent, the weight of said coating being 0.1-10g coating per 100g of the particles.
2. Particles according to claim 1 wherein the coating also comprises a polymer.
- 5 3. Particles according to claim 1 wherein the dispersing agent is polymeric.
4. Particles according to claim 3, wherein the oil field production chemical is a polar organic compound.
5. Particles according to claim 4 wherein the oil field production chemical and the polymeric dispersing agent do not have the same charge.
- 10 6. Particles according to claim 3, wherein the dispersing agent is neutral, basic or cationic.
7. Particles according to claim 6 wherein the oil field production chemical is a polymeric anionic compound and the dispersing agent is non ionic, basic or cationic.
- 15 8. Particles according to claim 3 wherein the polymeric dispersing agent is of the comb type.
9. Particles according to claim 3 wherein the polymeric dispersing agent has an organic backbone with pendant hydrophilic and hydrophobic groups.
10. Particles according to claim 3 wherein the polymeric dispersing agent has a polar organic backbone with pendant hydrophobic groups.
- 20 11. Particles as claimed in claim 3 wherein the polymer is an oligomeric polyacid polyester or amine derivative thereof.
12. Particles as claimed in claim 1 wherein the coating comprises a surfactant.
13. Particles as claimed in claim 12 wherein the surfactant is a polymeric or monomeric alkoxyated alcohol or phenol.
- 25 14. Particles as claimed in claim 12 wherein the surfactant is a polymeric ether.

15. Particles as claimed in claim 9 wherein the polymer has a hydrocarbon backbone with at least one pendant oxygen and/or nitrogen containing polar group.
16. Particles as claimed in claim 15 wherein the polymer is an aliphatic (N-heterocyclic)carbonyl polymer.
- 5 17. Particles as claimed in claim 16 wherein the aliphatic (N-heterocyclic)carbonyl polymer is an alkylated derivative of polyvinylpyrrolidone.
18. Particles as claimed in claim 15 wherein the dispersing agent is an acetal of polyvinyl alcohol with an aldehyde.
19. Particles as claimed in claim 18 wherein the dispersing agent is a polyvinyl
- 10 butyral vinyl alcohol polymer.
20. Particles as claimed in claim 10 wherein the dispersing agent comprises a fatty acid polyamine condensate.
21. Particles as claimed in claim 1 wherein the oil field production chemical is a scale inhibitor, a corrosion inhibitor, an asphaltene inhibitor, a wax inhibitor or a
- 15 demulsifier.
22. Particles as claimed in claim 21 wherein the scale inhibitor is a polymeric compound.
23. Particles as claimed in claim 22 wherein the polymeric compound is a polyvinyl sulphonic acid, a poly(meth)acrylic acid or a copolymer of a vinylsulphonic acid
- 20 and a (meth)acrylic acid or an alkali metal salt thereof.
24. Particles as claimed in claim 23 wherein the dispersing agent is basic or cationic.
25. Particles according to claim 23 wherein the dispersing agent is a polymer with a hydrocarbon backbone and at least one pendant hydrophobic group and at least
- 25 one pendant nitrogen containing polar hydrophilic group.
26. Particles according to claim 25 wherein the dispersing agent is an aliphatic (N-heterocyclic)carbonyl polymer.
27. Particles according to claim 26 wherein the aliphatic (N-heterocyclic)carbonyl polymer is an alkylated derivative of polyvinylpyrrolidone.
- 30 28. Particles according to claim 24 wherein the dispersing agent has a polar organic backbone with pendant hydrophobic groups.
29. Particles according to claim 28 wherein the dispersing agent comprises a fatty acid polyamine condensate.
30. Particles according to claim 23 wherein the dispersing agent is a polyvinyl
- 35 butyral vinyl alcohol polymer.

31. Particles comprising an oil field production chemical having a coating comprising a material selected from:

- a) a comb type polymer,
- b) polymeric or monomeric alkoxyated alcohol or phenol,
- 5 c) polymeric ether.
- d) a polymer with a hydrocarbon backbone with at least one pendant oxygen and/or nitrogen containing polar group which is an aliphatic (N-heterocyclic) carbonyl polymer.

32. Particles as claimed in claim 1 wherein the relative weight of the coating to the particle is 0.5-5g coating dry weight per 100g of dry weight particle.

10 33. Particles as claimed in claim 1 wherein the average size of the particles is 1-10 microns.

34. A process for the manufacture of particles of an oil field production chemical, wherein a solid particulate oil field production chemical is comminuted in the presence of a dispersion of a dispersing agent in an inert oil to cause the dispersing agent to adhere to at least part of the surface of the particle to form a coating on said particle, the weight of coating to said particles being 0.1-10%.

35. A suspension comprising an inert oil and particles of a solid comprising an oil field production chemical, said solid carrying a coating, which comprises a dispersing agent, the weight of said coating being 0.1-10g coating per 100g of the particles.

36. A suspension as claimed in claim 35 wherein the inert oil is diesel oil or kerosene.

37. A suspension as claimed in claim 35 or 36 which also comprises an organophilic thickening agent or viscosifier.

38. A suspension according to claim 35 which also comprises a dispersing agent dissolved in said oil.

39. A method of reducing the formation of a separate phase from a liquid phase in a subterranean environment producing oil, or removing said separate phase, which comprises injecting into said environment particles of a solid comprising an oil field production chemical, said solid carrying a coating, which comprises a dispersing agent, the weight of said coating being 0.1-10g coating per 100g of the particles.

40. A method according to claim 39 which comprises injecting particles of an inhibitor of solid growth formation.

35 41. A method according to claim 40 wherein particles of scale inhibitor are

injected into the formation and the scale inhibitor is released into the formation water.

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